

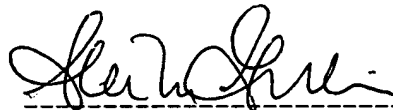
REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are presented for examination. The claims are amended to eliminate the multiple dependency of claim 8 so as to avoid the multiple dependent claim fee, and new claim 21 is added to cover the features of combined claims 8 and 5.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and favorable examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees due to maintain the pendency of this application (except the Issue Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

8. (*Amended*) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 2 [or 5], wherein a distance between mutual steel filaments in each layer of the strand is not more than 0.014 mm.

New Claim 21 is added.